

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02805 121739Z

ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3465

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PEPR, PA

SUBJECT: ANTI-U.S. DEMONSTRATION OVER LAINO CASE

REF: A. STATE 173937

B. ASUNCION 2789

1. AT THEIR INITIATIVES I MET WITH THE GERMAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS AND SPOKE ON THE TELEPHONE WITH THE BRITISH CHARGE. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WILL MEET THIS AFTERNOON TO CONSIDER HOW THEY WILL EXPRESS THIS SOLIDARITY TO THE GOVERNMENT. I OF COURSE REPONDED WITH THANKS AND SAID THAT THE FORM WAS NOT SO IMPORTANT AS THE TIMING. THE SOONER THEY PRESENTED THEIR COMMON POSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT THE BETTER. ALL CONDEMNED THE VULGAR, STAGE-MANAGED DEMONSTRATION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT'S PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS LAUNCHED LAST NIGHT. THE FUP (FEDERACION UNIVERSITARIA DEL PARAGUAY, A BRANCH OF THE RULING COLORADO PARTY) ISSUED A COMMUNICATION TO ACCOMPANY THE MANIFESTATION DECLARING ME PERSONA NON GRATA BECAUSE I HAD PARTICIPATED IN A PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE UNIVERSITY TITLED, "HUMAN RIGHTS IN PARAGUAY". (WHILE I HAD BEEN INVITED I HAD DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ORDER NOT TO OCCASION ANY FURHTER CHARGES OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS). THE AMUSING THING IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT FORCED THE NON-COLORADO STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS TO CANCEL THE PANEL.

2. IN OUR MEETING JULY 11 FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES ASKED THAT
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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02805 121739Z

I LOOK FOR WAYS TO "CALM MATTERS DOWN". I AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY. APPARENTLY THE GOP'S WAY OF CALMING MATTERS IS THIS OFFICIALLY DIRECTED AND SUPPORTED ATTACK ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND ME BY AN ORGANIZATION CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE STROESSNER GOVERNMENT. WE BELIEVE WE MUST REACT SHARPLY TO THIS PROVOCATION BOTH BECAUSE THE CHARGES OF INTERVENTION ARE UNFOUNDED AND BECAUSE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE THE GOP THE IMPRESSION THAT IT CAN GET AWAY

WITH THIS TYPE OF BEHAVIOR. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LIVING MEMORY
THE EMBASSIES OF ASUNCION HAVE SOMETHING TO DO AND THEY ARE TAKING
FULL ADVANTAGE OF IT.

3. I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT ME TO DELIVER A NOTE
TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH PROTESTS THE OFFICIALLY BLESSED
DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY AND REJECTS THE CHARGES OF
INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY BY THE AMBAS-
SADOR AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE NOTE SHOULD THEN POINT OUT
THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HOPES TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE HISTORI-
CALLY GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, RECENT
EVENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAVE CAUSED US TO
QUESTION WHETHER THE GOP SHARES THIS DESIRE AND WE WOULD REQUEST
THAT THE GOP CLARIFY ITS POSITION AND INTENTIONS REGARDING ITS
RELATIONS WITH US. UNTIL SUCH CLARIFICATION IS RECEIVED, THE
U.S. FINDS IT NECESSARY TO SUSPEND ANY CONSIDERATIO OF ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY COOPERATION WITH THE GOP.
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